

U.S. 40 / River Road Intersection Becomes the #2 Priority for UDOT

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On October 12, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) hosted an open house in which Alan Mecham, the transportation director for Region Three, informed a group of citizens, reporters, and government officials that the U.S. 40/River Road intersection is now the number two priority for UDOT in Wasatch County. The Provo Canyon road still maintains the number one spot even though the project has recently stalled.

Individuals at the open house credit the outstanding citizen participation at the recent town hall meeting hosted by the state's legislators for this dramatic reshuffling of transportation project priorities within the county. Before the town hall meeting, sources close to the matter said that UDOT had no intention of building an overpass at that intersection.

Mecham expects it will take approximately \$10 to \$15 million to build the overpass, and funds would become available in about three years. The infamous "great sucking sound" of the I-15 reconstruction project will continue to use up



Summit County gets new traffic lights, Wasatch County gets the usual hollow promises. In spite of having no fatal accidents and having no apparent need, Silver Creek Junction (U.S. 40 & I-80) got a new set of traffic lights this week. The junction of River Road and U.S. 40 in Wasatch County with its multiple fatal accidents will have to wait an additional three plus years.

most of the state's transportation budget for the next couple of years.

When Julie Lundskog, a resident of Midway, learned that the U.S. 40/River Road intersection has been bumped up to number two, she said that she was "pleasantly surprised."

After the recent legislative visit she was

discouraged because the legislators never directly answered the people's transportation questions during the meeting. She also believes that, "if people didn't stay afterwards to talk to them, the legislature wouldn't have paid attention. It's nice to see they actually listened. Hopefully, this project will get done before the Olympics." *W*